

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 262

By Ketron

A RESOLUTION to honor the Middle Tennessee State University men's basketball team on an excellent season.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly should pay tribute to those exemplary student athletes who have attained the pinnacle of competition, thus bringing honor and acclaim to the State of Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, the Middle Tennessee State University (MT) Blue Raiders, coached by the legendary Kermit Davis, epitomize excellence both on and off the basketball court; and

WHEREAS, the Blue Raiders have recently enjoyed remarkable success, ranking among the top 25 nationally in total wins during the past six years; and

WHEREAS, during that same time period, MT has posted wins over Michigan State, UCLA, Tennessee, Vanderbilt, Auburn, and Ole Miss (twice); and

WHEREAS, most importantly, Coach Davis has graduated forty-two consecutive student athletes who have exhausted their eligibility; and

WHEREAS, the Blue Raiders began their 2016-2017 campaign inspired by their victory over No. 2-seed Michigan State in the 2016 NCAA Tournament, one of the biggest upsets of last year's tournament and one of the biggest wins in Middle Tennessee basketball history; and

WHEREAS, during the regular season, Coach Davis and the Blue Raiders went 27-4 overall and 17-1 in conference games to claim the C-USA title and were nationally ranked for the first time in program history: 25th in the *USA Today* Coaches Poll; and

WHEREAS, led by C-USA Player of the Year JaCorey Williams, MT won 14 games away from home and posted 11 true road wins while playing one of the toughest non-conference schedules in the nation; and

WHEREAS, after experiencing their sole conference loss on February 4, the Blue Raiders rebounded to ring up 10 consecutive wins; and

WHEREAS, in the C-USA Tournament, MT avenged its regular-season loss to UTEP in the semi-finals and bested Marshall in the finals to claim the Blue Raiders' second consecutive C-USA Championship and earn the ninth NCAA Tournament bid in school history; and

WHEREAS, the Blue Raiders rode the hot hand of C-USA Tournament MVP Giddy Potts (30 points, 8 rebounds, 2 assists) to earn the conference's automatic bid to March Madness as a 12 seed; and

WHEREAS, in the first round of the NCAA tourney, the Blue Raiders faced off against the Mighty Minnesota Golden Gophers of the Big Ten and proceeded to destroy those pesky rodents, 81-72, behind 19 points and 9 rebounds from Reggie Upshaw, 15 points and 5 assists from Giddy Potts, and 13 points and 6 rebounds from JaCorey Williams, thus advancing once again to the Round of 32 via an upset; and

WHEREAS, during this championship season, the Blue Raiders have been blessed with the coaching genius of Kermit Davis, the winningest coach in MT basketball history and 2017 C-USA Coach of the Year, who led the team to a school-record 31 wins; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED TENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we honor and congratulate Kermit Davis and the Middle Tennessee State University Blue Raider men's basketball team on capturing the 2017 Conference USA regular season and tournament championships, posting a school-record 31 victories, and winning their second consecutive first round game in the NCAA Tournament and extend to them our best wishes for continued success next season.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.